



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29

HOUSE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the State of Illinois learned with regret of the death of Reathel M. Odum on June 6, 2006; and

WHEREAS, She was the daughter of Thomas Brittain Odum and Myrtle Powell Odum; she graduated from Benton High School in 1926; and

WHEREAS, After high school, she worked for Marion Hart at the Franklin County Title Company in Benton; she then worked for the First National Bank of Benton during the Great Depression until 1933; she also worked for the First National Bank in East St. Louis and was an assistant to the president of the Federal Reserve Bank in St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, She served as secretary for U.S. Senator Harry S. Truman of Missouri in his Washington, D.C., office; she continued to work for Mr. Truman while he was Vice President, taking dictation and typing his speeches; one of her many duties included showing various family members around Washington when they came to visit; and

WHEREAS, She became very close with the Truman family and would babysit for their daughter, Margaret Truman; she and Margaret remained lifelong friends; and

WHEREAS, Miss Odum went on to serve as personal assistant for Bess Truman and then Secretary to the First Lady; she lived with the Trumans, first in the Blair House and then in the White House; she worked for the Trumans from 1936 to 1953; and

WHEREAS, The passing of Reathel M. Odum has been deeply felt by many, especially her nephew, Richard O. Hart; her niece, Susan McGannon; her great-nephews, Murphy C. Hart and

1 Paul R. Hart; she was preceded in death by her brothers,
2 Orville Odum, Kenneth Odum, and Clarence Odum; and her sister,
3 Pauline Davis; therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
6 we mourn the passing of Reathel M. Odum, and we extend our
7 sincere condolences to her family, friends, and all who knew
8 and loved her; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
10 presented to her family as an expression of our deepest
11 sympathy.